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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to sections 23 to 29 of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, and to rules 55 to 64 of the Rules under the Act, which regulate the assessment, levy and collection of betterment contribution.

" None of the three factors referred to by the Member is taken into consideration in arriving at the amount of contribution."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" What action was taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Provincial Town-Planning Committee that betterment levy should be imposed only when betterment in the locality is actually effected by the local body concerned? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, certain provisions recommended by the Provincial Town-Planning Committee relating to the levy of betterment contributions have been accepted by the Government."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Corporation of Madras levy a betterment tax, spread over a period of 20 years, based on an arbitrary estimate of increase in the value of the land and not with reference to the actual cost of the betterment effected in the area? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" May I know, whether the Government are aware that the betterment levy is an unnecessary penalisation of the poor house-owner? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As a result of undertaking Town-Planning Schemes, the land value increases and a local body is entitled to recover one-half of the increased value of such land."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government see that undue hardships are not caused to the poor people when betterment levies are imposed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If any undue hardship is caused, it is considered by the arbitrator appointed for this purpose."

Excise duty on Ayurvedic tonics.

* 119 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation against the proposal of levying an excise duty on certain Ayurvedic tonics like Dashamularista, Draksharishta, etc., from the Ayurvedic practitioners and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration."

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SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, whether the Government will consider the desirability of withdrawing their order C.R. No. 3567/51, dated 29th December 1951, in view of the fact that it causes immense harassment to the Ayurvedic practitioners? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :— " A separate question may be put."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Do all or any of these tonics contain intoxicating ingredients please? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" It all depends upon the percentage of alcoholic content in the various aristas and asavas."

SRI N. RAJAGOPAL :—" May I know, whether the Government are aware that aristas and asavas are only medicinal preparations and that a levy of certain excise duty on these medicinal preparations causes hardship to poor patients to whom the excise duty will be passed on? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :— " Yes Sir, but at the same time they contain alcohol. That is why, Government want to levy an excise duty."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Have the Government any instances of persons having become intoxicated and being a nuisance to the public by taking asavas and aristas? If not, why should the Government bring these preparations within the ambit of the law of Prohibition? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" This matter has not particularly been brought to the notice of the Government."

SRI T. POTHA RAJU :—" May I know, whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Bombay which is equally a Prohibition State, exclude asavas and aristas from the operation of the Prohibition Act? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :— Notice, Sir."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have pitched upon a particular Ayurvedic dispensary for supplying them with asavas and aristas in order to find out the alcoholic content in them?"

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :— " I have not got the information with me."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to state how much percentage of alcohol is permitted in allopathic medicines and how much in Ayurvedic medicines? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :— " Notice, Sir."